

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE ORDINANCE

Public Meetings

Wednesday, September 6

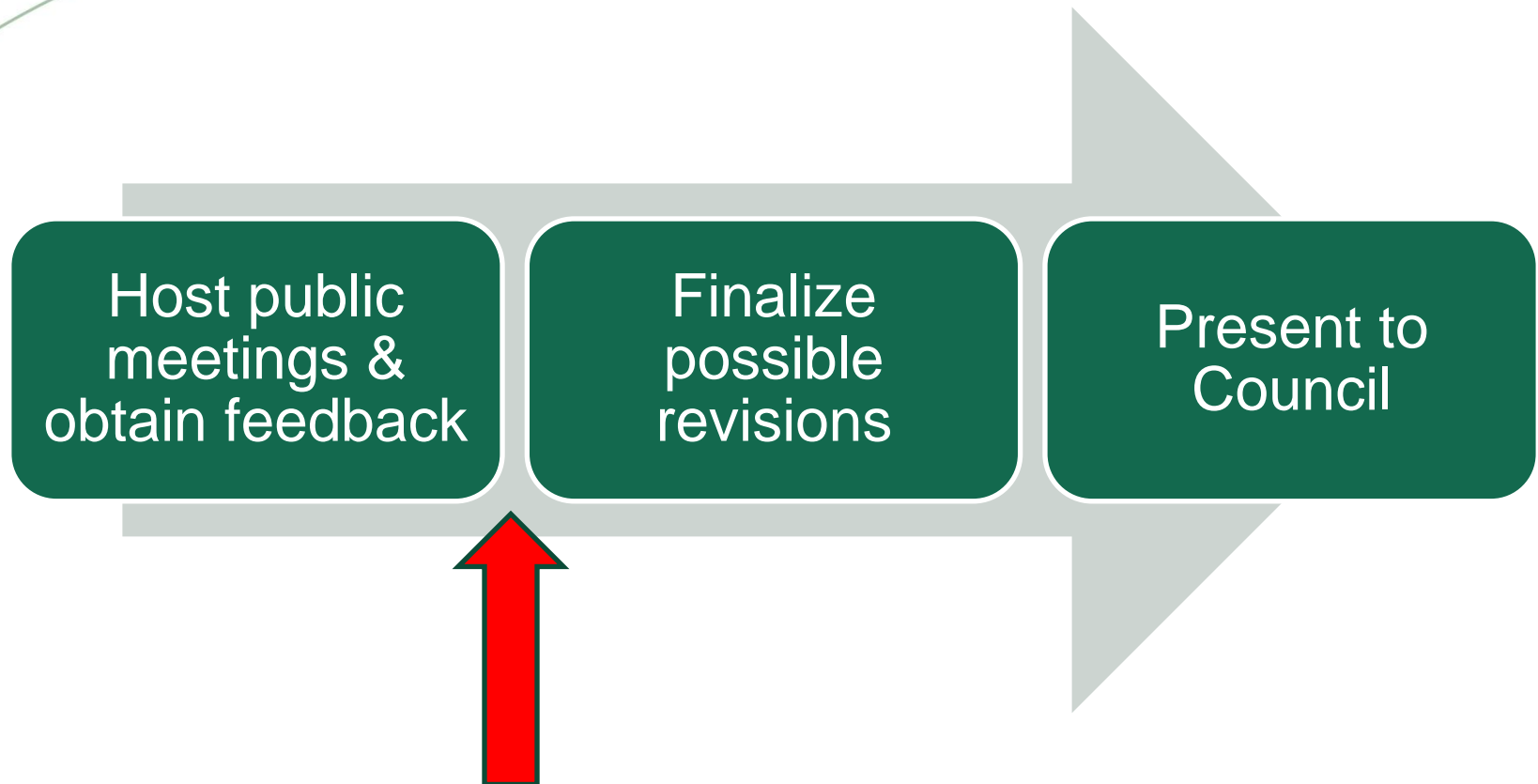
2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- Our Process
- Ground rules
- Background
- Purpose of Ordinance
- Enforcement Updates
- What we heard from Listening Session
- Timeline and Next steps



OUR PROCESS



In process



GROUND RULES

- Respect one another
- One person speaks at a time
- If you disagree, propose a solution
- Keep an open mind
- Try not to repeat a previous comment—use comment cards
- Be concise, stay on topic (Parking Lot)



BACKGROUND

- August 2016: Revisions to Alcohol Beverage Ordinance Approved by City Council
 - Complete re-write of the previous ordinance
 - Omitted redundant provisions and eliminated those addressed in State law to include:
 - Licensing matrix
 - Requirement for proof of financial responsibility
 - Public safety plan
 - Server permits
 - Licensed alcoholic beverage caterers
 - Samples
 - Event venues
 - Underage permits and requirements
- January 1, 2017: Revisions to Alcohol Beverage Ordinance went into effect



PURPOSE OF ORDINANCE

Establish reasonable and ascertainable standards for the regulation and control of alcohol beverages in a manner to promote health, safety and general welfare of the community, while giving effect to zoning and land use plans, preserving residential areas with reasonable consideration for their character and with the general intent of promoting desirable living conditions and sustaining the stability of neighborhoods and property values.



ADDITIONAL CHANGES IN 2017

- January 2017: Amendment to prohibit alcoholic beverage license establishments from allowing employees or customers to engage in public nudity
- April 2017: Council approved not enforcing server permits [bar cards]
- June 2017: Commence revisions process



CURRENT CHANGE UNDER CONSIDERATION

Brewers:

- Amend ordinance to avoid conflict with State law [Sections 6-1204 and 6-1206; Add Sec. 6-1217]
- The new law allows breweries and distilleries to sell directly to consumers [Sept 1, 2017]

To-go cup boundaries:

- Expand to-go cup zone to Savannah River Landings
- 2nd Reading for both items scheduled for September 14, 2017



ALCOHOL BEVERAGE COMPLIANCE (ABC) UNIT

- Comprised of officers and civilians who work closely with the said partnerships
- Educates alcohol establishments on how to comply with the local and state alcohol ordinances
- Works with the federal, state and local law enforcement agencies throughout the state on underage alcohol sales
- Conducts operations for special events or festivals where alcohol-related disturbances tend to occur



MISSION OF THE ABC UNIT

- To improve the quality of life in Savannah Chatham County area through the fair and impartial enforcement of laws and regulations governing the serving, selling, distribution, and consumption of alcoholic beverages



ABC DUTIES

- Process alcohol license applications, public safety plan and criminal background checks for recommendation
- Process special event permits (Chatham County)
- Investigate complaints
- Conduct semi-annual and covert compliance checks
- Prepare reports and attend Administrative Hearings after numerous violations
- Prepare reports, testify, and attend Show Cause Hearings at City Council
- Attend neighborhood meetings concerning alcohol issues and businesses that are petitioning for an alcohol license



BAR CARDS

Bar Cards Issued	
January	73
February	180
March	910
April	0
May	17
June	279
TOTAL	1,738

*26 Applications
were not
approved
[less than 2%]*

Convicted of

- violation of any law, ordinance or regulation governing the sale of alcoholic beverages
- a violent crime or
- or possession of illegal drugs

in the 36 months immediately preceding the date of the application



BAR CARD REVISIONS?

- Continue to require server permits [bar cards] and revise process
 - Sec. 6-1215. Employee regulations for retail dealers, caterers and others dispensing alcohol for consumption on premise
 - Require all ~~persons employed as managers, servers, bartenders, doorpersons, or any other~~ employees, agents or subcontractors with the responsible for ~~handling~~ serving, mixing or dispensing alcohol for the purpose of consumption Provide fingerprints and submit criminal to background check
 - Complete server training prior to issuance of permit
 - Keep register of employees required to attend mandatory server training and server permit and copy of certificate, photo id and permit

DISCUSSION?



HYBRID REVISIONS?

- Clarify language with under age drinking when kitchen closes
 - Sec. 6-1219. Persons Under the age of 21
 - No less than 50% of annual gross sales derived from sale of prepared food:
 - When open to the public, mode of operation remains unchanged and full menu service available [or late night menu?], persons under 21 not permitted at the bar

DISCUSSION?



HYBRID REVISIONS?

- In establishments where more than 50% of licensee's annual gross sales are derived from the sale of prepared food, during the time the establishment is open to the public and its mode of operation changes, persons 18 years or older shall only:
 - Be permitted on premises once their age is verified
 - They must be marked with a wristband
 - Establishment must secure a Class I license.
- At no time may a person under the age of 21 shall be permitted at the bar

DISCUSSION?



DEFINE “BAR AREA?”

- Consists of bar with barstools
- Prominent displays of package alcohol and alcoholic beverage preparation and dispensing equipment
- Must be in area separate and distinct from dining areas
- Persons under the age of 21 shall not be permitted in bar area



DISCUSSION?



SUNDAY SALES?

- Sec. 6-1211 (c) Hours of Operation; Sunday Sales.
 - At least 50% of total annual gross sales derived from sale of prepared meals or food during the previous year
 - Possess or applied for business tax certificate to operate a restaurant
 - Prepared meals or food served on premises during the time in which the establishment is open to the public



SUNDAY SALES

- **Enforce Revenue Ordinance**
- Section 24. Gross Receipts Information Confidential
- Nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit inspection of business tax records, including gross receipts information, by duly qualified employees of the tax departments of the State of Georgia, the United States, and other local governments

DISCUSSION?



DISTANCE EXCEPTIONS

- Hotels of less than 50 rooms for the retail sale of alcoholic beverages solely to occupants of the hotel and their guests by the drink for consumption only on the premises;
- No distance requirements shall apply to colleges within the historic district or the Victorian District when the premises are zoned to allow such use; and
- A restaurant that sells alcoholic beverages as a part of the meal or to restaurant patrons waiting for a table to be served a meal in a public place, licensed as a restaurant, and kept, maintained, advertised and held out to the public as a place where meals are served and where meals are actually and regularly served, such place being provided with adequate and sanitary kitchen and dining room equipment and seating capacity of at least 40 people, having employed therein a sufficient number and kind of employees to prepare, cook and serve suitable food for its guests with the serving of alcoholic beverages to be consumed on the premises as only incidental thereto



DISCUSSION?

ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS?



TIMELINE

- Post recommendations: By Sept 8
- Submit Report to City Manager: Sept 18
- Present to City Council:
 - 1st Reading Sept 28
 - 2nd Reading Oct 12
- Outreach on Revisions: Oct 15-Dec 31



NEXT STEPS

- Keep informed via the City's website:
 - www.savannahga.gov/alcohol
- Submit feedback to:
 - alcohol@savannahga.gov
 - 912-525-1500

